SPORTING WEEKLY

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JULY, 1943

Vol 48. No. 112

BING THE CROONER

The Victorian
Bing Crosby
Society
NEWSLETTER

May '79

HELLO AGAIN,
Here we are with our second newsletter for 1979. Certainly it's the most ambitious publication that we've ever attempted. At this stage, we're up to at least 24 pages! One of the things that I've always maintained is that we're not in the magazine publishing business when it comes to Crosby. We'll leave that to people better equipped in the U.S. and the U.K. Nonetheless, there seemed to be so much of interest to put in that the newsletter just grew and grew.

In the following pages you'll see a number of interesting newspaper clippings reproduced (by the way, if you see anything of interest on Bing or his family in ANY publication, please send it in. We often miss out.), exciting news of new record issues, another NEW book on Bing (Al Rinker is writing one now so we hear), an auction list of rare Crosby material, Crosby movies for sale overseas, two great new cassettes of collector's items in our tape library, a lift out list of Crosby LP's available from overseas, and as they say in the classics, much MUCH more!

Special thanks to our ex-secretary Audrey Evans who loaned us the original copy of the July 1943 edition of Sporting Weekly from which our cover was taken. I think that you'll agree it's a striking and unusual cover.

Let's start off, as we always do, with a round up of forthcoming future functions.

FUTURE FUNCTIONS

MONDAY MAY 21ST - FINAL SCREENING -"KING OF JAZZ" 7.30 pm

For all those members who missed it the first time, or those who would just like to see it again, we are holding one last screening of "King of Jazz" at the Mobil Centre. Cost of entry will be a more reasonable $2.00 per head and there will be a few left-over souvenir programmes and discs from the original screening for sale.
If you'd like to see this remarkable movie, this will probably be your last chance ever as we are planning to sell the film to a private collector.
Coffee, tea and biscuits will be available free of charge at interval.

MONDAY JUNE 4TH - MUSIC EVENING - MOBIL CENTRE 7.30 pm.

Two weeks after King of Jazz, we meet again at the Mobil Centre for another music evening. Guest speaker of the evening will be Geoff Orr who will talk on his recent visit to the U.S. and hopefully play tapes of interviews he has made with a number of interesting personalities including perhaps, Kathryn Crosby. The reason for the vagueness is that at the time of writing, Geoff is still overseas and we don't know exactly what he will be saying or showing. However, you can be sure that it will be a most interesting evening. In addition to Geoff, Thelma Wood will be presenting another of her delightful music quizzes, and if time permits, there'll be a presentation of records from one of the members.

MONDAY JULY 9TH - FILM EVENING - MOBIL CENTRE 7.30 PM SHARP

Due to increasing costs, we have decided that we have to regrettably end our film afternoons at the Collingwood Education Centre (See Past Functions for more details). Instead, until further notice, all films will be screened in the evening at the Mobil Centre.
At this stage, we're not sure of the programme for July 9th, BUT, for sure it will include at least one of the following:

* WE'RE NOT DRESSING
* THE STAR MAKER
* ALL THE MUSICAL NUMBERS FROM BIG BROADCAST OF 1932

Whichever film or films we don't screen on this night, we'll screen later in the year.

You'll receive another newsletter in plenty of time for the screening on July 9th. In the meantime, note the date down now. All three films are well worth seeing.

ADDRESS OF THE MOBIL CENTRE

For new members, or existing members who have never been there, the Mobil Centre is located at 2 City Rd, South Melb. diagonally opposite the Art Centre. The theatrette is located on the ground floor and there is usually a notice board up to direct you. As well as this, there is a guard on duty who can give you directions.

REPORT ON PAST FUNCTIONS

FILM AFTERNOON - COLLINGWOOD EDUCATION CENTRE - MARCH 18TH

A disappointingly small crowd of about 30 people turned up for what was a very interesting film programme. In the first half, we saw the 1945 Bond Rally Drive in the U.S. entitled "All Star Bond Rally" featuring Bing, Hope, Sinatra and others. Next was the 1929 short "St Louis Blues" featuring the great Bessie Smith and following that, an unannounced extra short "Any Sunday" featuring a very young Judy Garland and Dianna Durbin - the girls' first film appearance actually from 1935 for MGM. Finally in the first half, another unannounced short - "Crooner's Holiday", one of Bing's 1931 Mack Sennett comedies. After interval came the main feature for the day - the 1949 Walt Disney cartoon "Legend of Sleepy Hollow" to which Bing supplied the songs and narration.

As we said earlier, this will unfortunately have to be our last Sunday afternoon screening. Due to rising costs of both the Centre and the film hire and the small attendance, we actually made a loss on the afternoon, something which the society cannot afford to do at this time. We realize that this Monday evening time may not be convenient for all our members but unfortunately, we have no other choice. The Mobil Centre and all its facilities are supplied to us free of charge and this is simply too strong an incentive to be ignored.

MUSIC EVENING - MONDAY APRIL 2ND

About 35 members attended this function and a pleasant time was had by all. We were treated to interesting musical selections from members Bob Neate, Bernard Waslin and one other person (whose name escapes me for the moment - please forgive me, whoever you are - I will make amends in the next newsletter!) In addition, yours truly presented a music quiz instead of Thelma Wood. Strangely, everyone said that they were looking forward to Thelma's quiz at the next meeting. Funny.

DINNER AT BING'S RESTAURANT - FRIDAY APRIL 20TH

Unfortunately, due to poor response, we were forced to cancel this function. Apologies to any members inconvenienced by the can cellation.

A VERY EXCITING RECORD OFFER!

As you'll read elsewhere in this newsletter, the Bing Crosby Historical Society held their first major get-together in Spokane in early May.

To commemorate the occasion, the Society produced a limited-edition 45 rpm record featuring some very unusual and rare Crosby material.

The bulk of these records were sold to visitors to the function, but thanks to the kindness of Ken Twiss, 20 copies of this disc have been supplied to your committee for distribution to members of the Victorian Bing Crosby Society.

The cost of these discs is $5 each and there is a strict limit of one disc per member or family.

Not being too sure just how the membership will react to this offer, we have decided to distribute the records on the following basis.

If you wish to reserve a record, let us know IMMEDIATELY! The records will be distributed on a first come, first served basis and no more will be available when these are gone.

It is advisable to send your payment now. As stated, the cost will be $5 and if you would like the disc posted to you, please add $1 to cover the cost of packing and surface mail.

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AND WHAT OF THE SINATRA/CROSBY LP MENTIONED IN THE LAST EDITION?

If you've reserved a copy of the special Sinatra/Crosby LP mentioned in the last newsletter, don't worry. The discs have been temporarily held up but they will be definitely out in a few weeks. The LP, produced by the Sinatra Society, features two Crosby radio shows from 1954 in which Sinatra was guest - once before and once after he won the Academy Award in that year. Cost is still not known so please do not send any money yet - just let me know how many copies that you would like.

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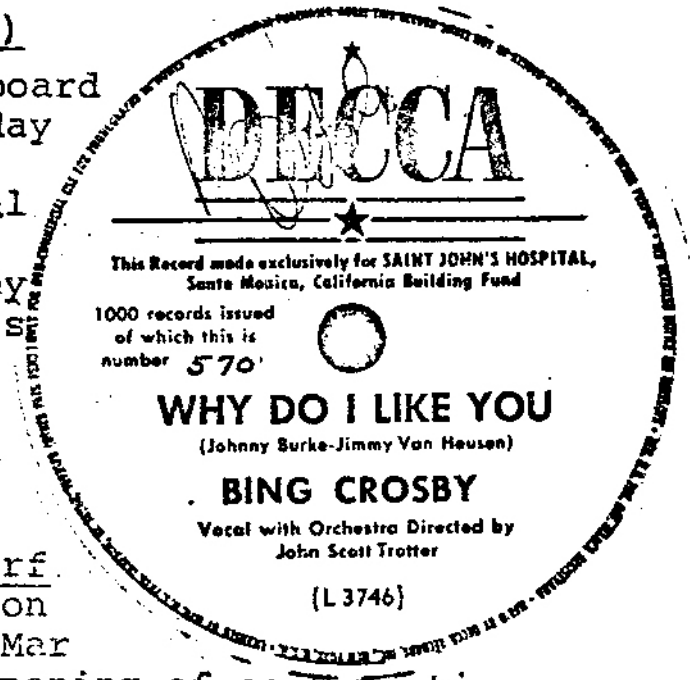
DOES ANYONE KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A REPORTED NEW BOOK CALLED "BING AND ME" PURPORTED TO BE WRITTEN BY ROSEMARY CLOONEY ?

CASSETTE LIBRARY - TWO EXCITING NEW ADDITIONS!

I'm happy to announce that the Club has just added two special cassettes to the Tape Library. These two new cassettes feature a total of sixty rare or unusual collector's items including private records, unissued takes, commercials, etc. They will be available at the same price as regular club cassettes (i.e. 2 for $1), HOWEVER, due to the anticipated high demand for the tapes, it has been decided that members may only borrow one collector's items tape at a time coupled with one of the other tapes from the library. That way, everyone gets a fair chance. And now, on to the contents of the cassettes:

COLLECTOR'S ITEMS - 1 (C.I. 1)



1. Music to shave by - A cardboard disc inserted into "The Saturday Evening Post" during the mid-1930's. An extended commercial for Remington Shavers, it features Bing, Rosemary Clooney, Louis Armstrong and the Hi-Lo's.

2. Two Philco Commercials Both taken from late 1940's radio shows and both featuring the great Al Jolson with Bing.

3. Where the turf meets the surf A special record made by Bing on July 5th, 1941 for use at Del Mar Race Track and played at the opening of each meeting.

4. Because - Another give-away disc from the 1950's and featuring Bing with Buddy Cole on the organ. Used by a milk company as a promotional device.

5. I'm gonna sit right down and write myself a letter & 6. Wake up and dream Two songs cut at a private party in 1936 and featuring Bing, Jack Benny and Andy Devine.

7. Three letters Another private record from the same era.

8. Take my heart Bing and several friends recording greetings in the American Decca studios in April 1936 for associates at Decca in England.

9. African Safari A private record made as a souvenir for all those who attended a safari to Africa in 1968 with Bing and Kathryn. The clever lyrics parody a number of well-known popular songs of the past 50 years and manage to work in most of the guests names plus highlights of the trip.

10. Bob Machliss"interviews" Bing Crosby - In days gone by, it was common practice for the publicity departments of film companies to supply radio stations with "interview" records featuring their personalities. These special discs featured the personality supplying the answers to scripted questions which were supplied to station announcers so that they could personally "interview" the personality concerned by reading them out at the appropriate times. Got that? Anyway, here's one example of those records now which enables yours truly to "interview" Bing on his 1961 movie "Road to Hong Kong".

11. Crosby, Columbo and Vallee - A fascinating 1932 record by Victor Young featuring a popular song of the day about guess who? Quality is a little fuzzy but this is a very rare item.

12. "Bing Crosby" A 1941 tribute song to Bing by "The Lion". Interesting to hear but simply dreadful otherwise.

13. "Bing" - A 1977 tribute song by Melbourne singer Paul Mackay. Unfortuately, Fable records didn't get behind this disc better, otherwise it might have sold better. Good disc.

14. "So Long Bing" - a tribute song from England by singer J.J. Barrie. One of the best recorded. Never issued here.

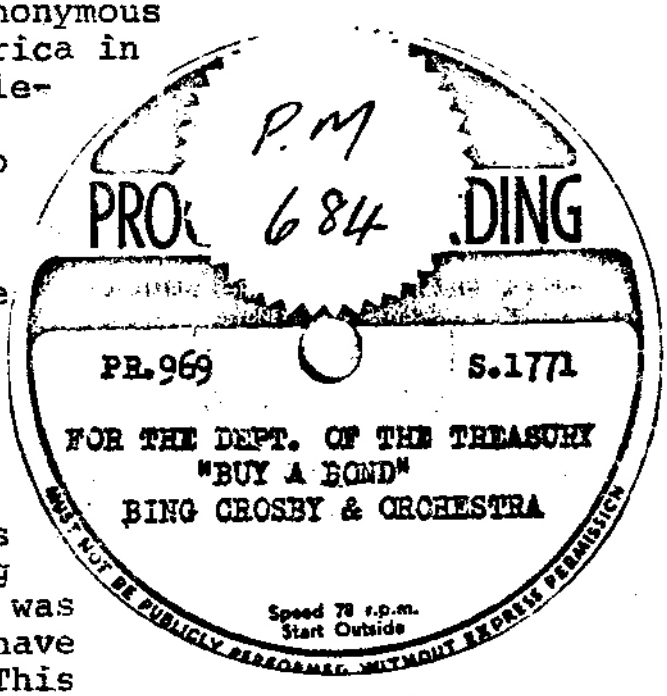
15. If I could sing like Bing - an early (1949) effort from Dean Martin when to sing like Bing was still the way to sing!

16. When You're In Love The first of 4 tracks featuring singers who are trying to sing like Bing. This one, by Russ Columbo,was recorded on August 31st, 1934, just two days before his accidental death. Columbo copies the Crosby style closely on this one - even to the use of a Jimmy Grier arrangement!

17. Adi Adi Adios Next, we have a song from Dick Todd, often called "The Canadian Bing Crosby". When you hear this disc, you'll know why. It was recorded Nov. 23rd, 1940.

18. Meet the sun half way A singer I've not heard of before - Barry Wood. Sounds quite like Bing on the 1938 recording.

19. I may be wrong - This anonymous vocalist was recorded in America in the mid-1960's. The Buddy Cole-type backing makes him sound very like Bing at times, also like Perry Como. But who he is remains a mystery.



20. Put it there pal - Now we move onto some rare issues. This one is the unissued alternate take of a record that most of us should know.

21. Happy happy wedding day A real collector's item, this one. The original, featuring Bing and the Andrews Sisters was never issued although tapes have been around for many years. This version is an alternative unissued master again!

22. Whistler's Mother-in-law Another unissued take.

23. A door will open - Recorded with Jimmy Dorsey's Orch. on Sept 6th, 1945, the lyrics obviously refer to the ending of the War. However, this disc was never issued commercially.

24. Spring Fever - Recorded on Feb. 21st, 1950. Never issued.

25. Here is my heart - An alternate unissed take of a very rare 1933 track featuring Bing with the Dorsey Brothers Orch.

26. Little Dutch Mill Another unissed take. March 10, 1934

27. Goodnight lovely little lady - Ditto. Feb. 25, 1934.

28. You belong to my heart - a famous 'blow-up' disc from 1945. Bing obviously has just come from a very good lunch!

29. Jimmy Valentine - Another 'blow-up', this one made during the recording of the soundtrack for the film "Starmaker"

30. A Blues Serenade - Bing sings this one perfectly until the very last line, then oops!

31. Jingle Bells - You know the original, now hear the 'blow-up' with the Andrews Sisters, from 1943.

32. Wrap your troubles in dreams The most famous 'blow-up' of all.

COLLECTORS ITEMS 2 (C.I. 2)

1. "College Humour" publicity disc - A promotional disc for Bing's 1933 movie of that name.

2. Another "College Humour" publicity disc As above.

3. "Too much harmony" publicity disc _ From another 1933 film.

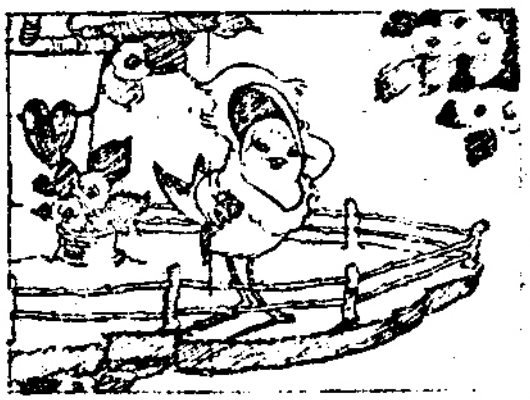
4. Message to the British Bing Crosby Society Running several minutes, this was recorded after Bing had finished putting down one of his radio sessions with Buddy Cole in the late 1950's. Includes song "All the time". Tape 'wows' badly in places but no better copy is available.

5. How ya gonna keep 'em down on the farm - A private record made in England in 1960. A parody on the old song.

6. Rollicking Rockaway Raoul Another private recording, this one cut at a party held to celebrate the end of filming of "Going Hollywood" in 1933.

7. 160 Acres - A parody of Bing's commercial issue of the same name recorded inDec. 1947. With the Andrews Sisters.

8. Blue of the Night A parody of Bing and all crooners generally, taken from the soundtrack of a film featuring the great American humourist, Will Rogers.

9. 

Who killed Cock Robin?In 1933, the Walt Disney Studios produced a cartoon of the old story parodying Bing and Mae West, amongst others. The soundtrack was issued on 78, and the relevant part of this disc has been included on this tape.

10. A radio party (extract) A very successful group in the 1930's were the 'Radio Rogues' who accurately impersonated the top stars of the day. Here they give us Bing's 'brother' Chris Crosby!

11. Oh, tell me why In the mid-1950's, multi-track tape recording was just coming in. Here we listen to Bing in a 1954 recording in which all members of the male chorus are also Bing!!!

12. Thanks In the early 1960's, Bing's son Philip recorded one of dad's early hits: "Thanks". Dad just happened to be in the studio on the day and drops in a few ad-lib comments during the song. Very rare!

13. Early American Another very rare commercial issue (see label opp.), this was limited to 50 pressings which were distributed to radio stations in Iowa for a state fair there back in 1945. Recorded: 3rd March.

14. Why do I like you Recorded the same day as the above, this is also a very rare track.(See label earlier) The record was issued on a single-sided Decca issue and sold for $5 a copy to raise money for the Saint John's Hospital building fund. Only one thousand copies were pressed, each personally autographed by Bing. (That's his signature over the word "DECCA" on the label.) Each record was also hand-numbered.

15. Voice of the Stars - Jubilee Edition - One of a series of records issued during the 30s featuring extracts from actual movie soundtracks. Along with Shirley Temple, Dick Powell, Ronald Coleman and others, we hear a few seconds of Bing from the soundtrack of Here is my Heart.

16. Vacation Road to Minnesota - A special promotional 7" rpm disc issued in the early 60's and featuring Bing and Bob Hope. Quite rare now.

17. Corinne Corinna - A private record from March, 1936 in which Bing sings a parody of "Corinna Corinna".

18. Sweet Georgia Brown - An alternate take of one of the all time great Crosby records. This version was taken from an LP about early U.S. radio and has a narrator who gives the recording date as 1929! (Actually, it was April 23, 1932)

19. On Treasure Island One of the earliest meetings of Bing and Al Jolson on radio (1935). In this transcript, Jolson introduces Bing who sings the above song.

20. Arguement with Jack Kapp - Jack Kapp was boss of Decca records for many years and was a strong influence on Bing's choice of material in the 1930's and 40's. However, they didn't always agree as this track proves - an in-studio argument, saved for posterity by a quick thinking engineer.

21. Old Man Crosby - An affectionate parody of Old Man River, sung by Frank Sinatra at a live concert in Blackpool, England back in 1953.

22. The 7th airforce song During the War, Bing recorded many numbers like this one - specially written for the 7th airforce.

23. Buy a Bond (See label earlier). Actually taken from the soundtrack of "All Star Bond Rally", these special Columbia issues were made in Australia for use in movie theatres, etc.

24. We've got another bond to buy. More of the above.

25. Road to Victory Still more of the same.

26. Sweet is the word for you , As with Cassette 1, we'll end with a series of 'blow-ups'. In this one, Bing develops 'gravel' trouble part way through.

27. I only want a buddy - Hard to tell what went wrong here but Bing alters the lyrics to include reference to visiting friends at the recording studios.

28. We're a couple of soldiers - the earliest, and one of the funniest, Crosby blow-up surviving. Recorded in 1932, Bing starts to laugh half way through when one of the musicians, fed up with the insipid lyrics, makes a rude noise on his musical instrument.

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And there you are. On two cassettes, a series of collector's items that include some of the most sought-after Crosby items ever. My thanks to good friend in the U.S. Vern Taylor who supplied me with tapes of several of the items.

###Please remember, if you wish to borrow these new cassettes, they are only available singly in conjunction with another library cassette.

FILMS FOR SALE

From a couple of sources overseas, the following films featuring Bing are available.

From: National Cinema Service, 333 West 57th St, New York, N.Y. 10019 U.S.A.

"CROSBY, COLUMBO AND VALLEE" A 1932 "Croonertoon" cartoon from (I believe) Warner Brothers. Probably based on the popular song of the time (a version of which is featured in our new "collector's items" cassettes written up elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter). Cost is quite reasonable: US $29 for a 16mm copy. At that price, we will probably buy one for the society.

From: Reel Images, 5337B Cahuenga Boulevard, North Hollywood, California, 91601, U.S.A.

"CHECK AND DOUBLE CHECK" A 1930 feature starring the popular radio team of Amos and Andy and Duke Ellington's Orchestra. What interest is this film to us? Well, during Bing's stay at the Coconut Grove Nightclub, he and the Rhythm Boys supplied the anonymous vocal for a black trio in Ellington's Orchestra on "Three Little Words!!! The Rhythm Boys don't get credit in the film's titles, but it's definitely them. Price: $175 US for a 16mm copy.

"ROAD TO BALI" The 1952 "Road" film, the only one in colour, is now available in Super 8 sound for home use. Price:US $275

"MUSICAL MEMORIES OF 1931" Features the musical numbers only from "Indiscreet" and "Reaching for the moon". From this latter film comes Bing singing "High up Low down". This 10 minute film is good value at US $32.50 for a 16mm print.

"THE EYES OF SCIENCE - PARAMOUNT PICTORIAL (1934)
This 10 minute short features composer Ralph Rainger playing several of his compositions, Maurice Chevalier singing "In the Park in Paris in the Spring" and Bing singing "Please". These latter songs are believed to be different from those featured in the full-length films. Available in 16mm for US $39.98 and Super 8 for US $22.98.

"BING MUST SING" A 10 minute cutdown of Bing's 1931 Mack Sennett short "Blue of the Night" 16mm: $34 8mm: $24

"CROONER'S HOLIDAY" A 10 minute cutdown of another 1931 Crosby short "Dreamhouse". 16mm: US $32.

"HOLLYWOOD ON PARADE #4 (1932)"
One of a series of short subjects produced by Paramount in the early 30's featuring various stars and contract players. This one features Eddie Borden, Richard Arlen, Mary Pickford, Tom Mix and Bing. $32.98 for a 16mm copy.

"WE'VE GOT ANOTHER BOND TO BUY" A 4 minute excerpt from a 1943 Bond film featuring Bing who sings the title song. 16mm: US $10.95.

Even if you're not a film collector, it's worth sending off $2 to Reel Images for their catalogue which lists hundreds of early, rare and unusal subjects, both sound and silent. It makes fascinating reading.

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The Herald, Tues., April 17, 1979

BING TAKES THE AIR

DURING his 60 years of entertaining, Bing Crosby regarded his radio programs as some of his most creative moments.

So much so that he did private transcriptions of his own radio shows ,which began in 1930.

That private collection has been culled for an album called "The Bing Crosby Radio Show" (Astor GA 5023).

It's a fascinating, historic record. Guests include George Burns, the Mills Brothers, Judy Garland, Peggy Lee, Maurice Chevalier, the Andrews Sisters, Nat King Cole, Jimmy Durante and, of course, Bob Hope.

But the most interesting track is 3½-minutes of hamming with Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall.

The album is one of a series of original broadcasts from the golden age of radio.

Also included are records from the following shows: Superman (complete with an ad for Kelloggs), The Shadow (starring Orson Welles), Mystery in the Air (with Peter Lorre), Flash Gordon, Jungle Jim, Tarzan, Popeye, Dragnet, Gunsmoke and the Lone Ranger.

This excellent series of nostalgia is budget-priced.

The first book about the musical career and songs of the world's most popular and influencial singer.

FOREWORD by JAMES VAN HEUSEN, a close friend of Bing's and composer of such Crosby classics as "Moonlight Becomes You," "The Second Time Around," "Swinging on a Star" and "Sunday, Monday or Always."

A CONVERSATION with AL RINKER of the famed Rhythm Boys. Bing and Al Rinker started together in Spokane, Washington in 1924. Here is the story of their early days, their arrival in Los Angeles, the disastrous debut in New York, Bing's first recording and the great days at the Rhythm Boys in Paul Whiteman's orchestra.

Includes a DIRECTORY of the COMPLETE RECORDINGS of BING CROSBY. Over 1600 songs. Over 1600 recordings. Over 400 million records sold. Reports recording dates and complete composer information.

19 pages of photographs including rare sheet music covers.

BING CROSBY—A LIFETIME OF MUSIC
by Laurence J. Zwischn
Foreword by James Van Heusen
148 pages
19 pages of photographs
Quality paperbound, 8½" x 11"
Library of Congress Catalog
Card Number 78-71333
ISBN 0-933266-00-6
Palm Tree Library
$8.95 (includes postage & handling)
No C.O.D.'s

ANOTHER NEW BOOK ON BING!

From a totally unknown and unexpected source comes another new and interesting sounding book on Bing. Rather than re-type the publicity release we've decided to reproduce it here for your interest. Thanks to member Morrie Pyne who brought this to our attention.

BING CROSBY—A LIFETIME OF MUSIC covers all the many aspects of Bing's musical career. From his days as the drummer in a local band in Spokane to his years as the world's most popular film and recording star. Through radio, records, films, television and concerts. From the first recording to the last public appearance 51 years later.

The book includes:

THE VOICE of CHRISTMAS. The story of "White Christmas" (the best selling record of all time) and Bing's lifelong association with songs of the holiday season.

BING and ELVIS. The two most popular singers in history. Traces the many parallels in the careers of these musical giants. Also Bing's tribute to Elvis.

SONG WRITERS. The great names in American popular music who wrote the songs Bing sang to the world.

BING CROSBY—SONG WRITER. The little known side of Bing. The story of the songs he wrote including his theme "Where the Blue of the Night Meets the Gold of the Day" and many others.

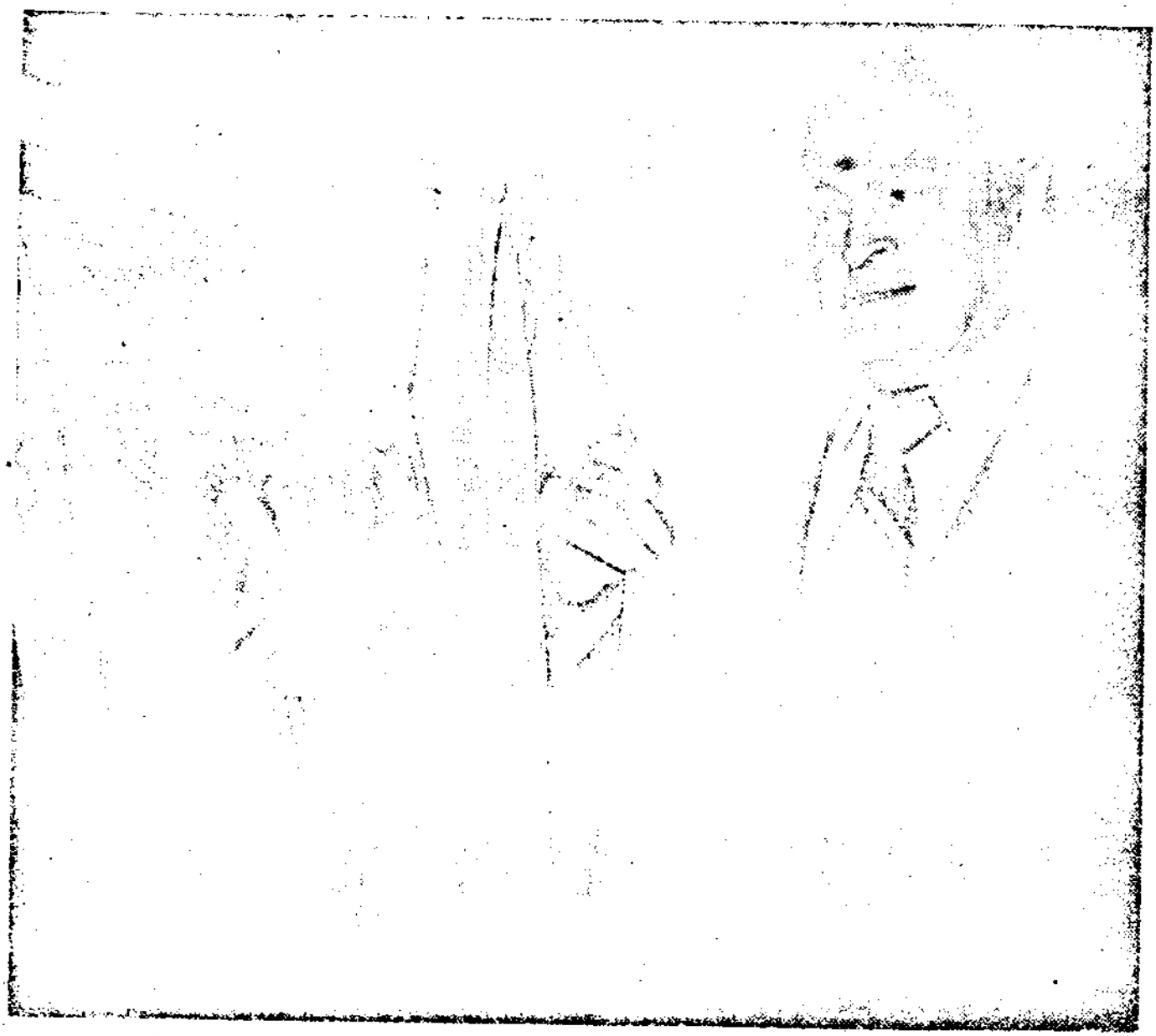
BING and FRIENDS. The scores of famous artists Bing worked and recorded with over the years including many surprises.

THE FINAL YEARS. The reawakening of Bing's career in 1975. His return to live concerts and recording. The details of his last personal appearances and his final recordings.

LAURENCE J. ZWISOHN is the author of numerous articles on American popular music. He is currently writing a book on the music of Al Jolson. He is the Executive Vice President of the Friends of the John Edwards Memorial Foundation at the University of California at Los Angeles. The foundation is an archive and research center engaged in documenting the history of American folk music.

The Herald, Fri., March 30, 1979

Thanks for the memory



LONDON, Thurs. — Bob Hope today unveiled a plaque in memory of his friend Bing Crosby at the London Palladium.

The plaque commemorates the last week of Bing's working life when he played to capacity audiences at the Palladium during a special 50th anniversary season.

Crosby died on October 14, 1977.

AUCTION OF BING CROSBY SOUVENIRS

Our friends at the Bing Crosby Historical Society in Tacoma, Washington are holding an auction of the following items to raise funds for their organization.
July 4th is the bidding deadline. Please make all bids in US $ and ¢. All lots will be shipped by the cheapest method and the bidders must bear this expense. For further details and to submit bids, please write to:

Jimmy Johnson, 1307 Dinwiddie Ave., Richmond, VA 23229, USA.

N.B. Jimmy also has an additional list of items for auction which we have not yet received. Please write direct to Jimmy if you want this list.

#1. Bing (credit card) wallet - elephant hide, new condition.
#2. International Crosby Circle neck tie, new condition.
#3. Ditto, in original envelope.
#4. "Call me Lucky", good condition, Simon & Shuster edition.
#5. "The Story of Bing Crosby" by Ted Crosby (1946). Good.
#6. I.C.C. Mini-discography (1926 - 1978) Good condition.
#7. Avon pocket book "Man on Fire". Very good condition.
#8. "The Road to Bing Crosby" discography. Pt 2. V.G.
#9. "Ditto". Pt 4. V.G.
#10. "Ditto" - V Disc supplement. V.G.
#11. Sheet music - "A friend of yours" G
#12. 12" LP - "Bing Sings the great country hits" N
#13. 12" LP - "Hey Jude, Hey Bing" N
#14. 12" LP - "Songs I wish I'd Sung" N
#15. 10" LP -"Crosby Classics" - Vol 2. VG
#16. 10" LP - "Blue of the Night" G
#17. 10" LP - "Stardust" G
#18. 10" LP - "Bing sings the song hits from Broadway shows" G
#19. 10" LP - "Bing sings songs by George Gershwin" G
#20. Five different US Decca 78 folders - Stardust, Favourite Hawaiian Songs (1), Ditto (2), Blue Skies, Victor Herbert Songs. All VG.

(Lots #21 - #29 - Bing song sheets)

#21. Swinging on a star
#22. I'd love to live in Loveland
#23. Where the blue of the night
#24. You keep coming back like a song

#25. Sioux City Sue
#26. If you please
#27. I can't escape from you
#28. Going my way
#29. Between a kiss and a sigh
#30. Reader's Digest Condensed Books (4 in set inc."Call Me Lucky" Fine condition.
#31. 45 - Gary Crosby - Palsy Walsy/Loop-de-loop Mambo.
#32. 45 - Gary Crosby - Judy Judy/Cheatin' on Me.
#33. 78 - Lindsay Crosby - That's what I want for Xmas/ Dear Mr Crosby.
#34. 78 - The Lion - "Bing Crosby" (See Collectors Items cass.)
#35. 12" LP - Collector's item - Both sleeve and album show "Ali Baba and the 40 thieves" but both sides actually feature songs and narration of "A Christmas Story".
#36. 2 x 12" LP's "Christmas Seal Campaign" - one for 1964 and the other from 1967. Bing, Sinatra and Benny are on both,with Hope and 44 other artists on the oether.
#37. 78 - Bing sings "Stay Well/The little grey house" Ex.
#38. 78 - Bing sings "The yodel blues/Big movie show" Ex.
#39. 78 - Bing & Dixie "Way you look tonight/Fine Romance" VF.
#40. 78 - Bing sings "160 Acres" BOTH sides. Error in pressing. Collector's item. Good cond.

And there you have it. For more details of individual items, write to Jimmy Johnson. And don't forget, there is now a further list available.

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A COUPLE MORE RECORDS OF INTEREST IN TOWN

World Record Club have just obtained the rights to the double LP set on RCA "This is Bing Crosby" which as you probably know features tracks from "Bing with a Beat" and "Fancy meeting you here". Cat. No. WRC 90540/1.

Bing's sing-a-long LP's

You may remember reading in an earlier newsletter that Capitol in the U.S. have re-released 3 of Bing's sing-a-long LP's (originally recorded for Warner Bros. 1959 - 61). Well, a couple of record shops in town now have import copies. Try Clements at their new Swanston St store.

NEW RECORD RELEASES

A couple of new releases on the local scene are worthy of mention for this issue of the newsletter.

FANCY MEETING YOU HERE RCA Vac 1 0183 $5.99
Nice to see an LP that was long sought after by collectors for many years finally resurfacing in Australia again. Originally issued here in 1958, the LP featured Bing and Rosemary Clooney and was a best-seller in its day. The only thing that takes the bloom off the re-issue is that most of the tracks turned up a couple of years back on a 2-lp set entited "The Best of Bing" (again?) on RCA which alternated tracks from "Fancy Meeting You Here" with "Bing With A Beat" - an LP cut with the Bob Scobey orchestra in 1957.

THE BEST OF THE BING CROSBY RADIO SHOWS Astor GA 5023 $3.99 and THE GOLDEN AGE OF AMERICAN RADIO United Artists L 36809 $7.99
These two issues really make you wonder if the people who run the record companies ever look at what goes on their records. Not only do these two LP's actually feature many of the same tracks, but all of the tracks on the Astor LP are currently available on the two double-LP sets on EMI (and also, for several dollars less on imported Murray Hill records.) So unless you're a label collector, give the Astor release a miss. The United Artists issue is a little better in that it does include 4 or 5 tracks not previously available but the rest is the same as before. Still, the cover is quite attractive. But WHY WHY WHY with so many hundreds of radio tracks to choose from do the record companies stick with the same titles they gave us only a couple of years ago!

For those who are interested, I believe that all the above, like most Crosby records now, are also available on cassette.

NEWS OF THE FORTHCOMING BING & BUDDY COLE LP'S.
In the last issue of the newsletter, we gave you a rundown on the two new LP's featuring radio material from the 1950's to which a modern orchestral backing has been added. I'm lead to believe that these LP's will not be issued here although they will be freely available in England under the title "The Songs of a lifetime" on Philips. So if you want copies, I guess that you'll have to write to one of the

addresses given elsewhere in this newsletter. By the way, the release was slated for mid-April, so the discs should be available now. Good news is that it looks like a further sixLP's will be issued mid-year as a boxed set. This set is also rumoured to contain the half-dozen poems that Bing recorded the day he finished work on the 'Seasons' LP.

Speaking of 'Seasons', it is now available on the budget Summit label for only $3.99. Worth having.

OVERSEAS ISSUES

There are literally dozens of LP's coming out in the U.S. which feature one or two tracks from Bing and even a few complete radio shows. Hopefully, we'll give you a complete rundown of these in the next issue. However, here's one LP from the UK which you may not have heard of yet:

STARS ON SUNDAY BY REQUEST Curzon Sounds Ltd. CSL 0081
This album takes its title from a popular quasi-religious programme in the U.K. that features different guest stars every week. Of the featured stars, all but Bing and James Stewart have 2 tracks apiece. Bing is presented reading the well known 'Judge not, that you may not be judged' chapters in the Bible that come from Matthew, Chapter 7, Verses 1-12. The reading was first broadcast on November 16th, 1975.

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KEN BARNES' BOOK ON BING

It seems fair to give Ken Barnes equal billing to Laurence J. Zwisohn (whose book is reviewed elsewhere in this newsletter.) So here are some extracts from a publicity release from the U.K.

"The Crosby Years is not just a biography. It is the first thoroughly documented examination of the long life and work of the late Bing Crosby.
There is a comprehensive biography of the man himself, full of anecdote and incident from both friends and critics, and also detailed analysis of the Crosby vocal innovation over the years 1926 - 77.
This relates both the successes and failures, the trial and error through which Crosby arrived at his own individual style and an understanding of the uses and limitations of his voice.

Year by year, sometimes session by session, the author traces Crosby's stylistic progression, pointing out not only the best of Bing, but also to the worst and offering detailed criticism of over 150 recordings.
The Crosby filmography and discography which follow give a complete listing of both the major Crosby films and his appearances in others and the most comprehensive listing ever of Crosby's enormous commercial record output, information derived in part from private collections in the UK, USA and Australia.
This section includes information on titles, composers, arrangements and recording dates which should be of tremendous interest to Crosby enthusiasts everywhere.
The final section carries a selection of lyrics and music for some of the many songs which Bing Crosby made popular."

Well, we'll just have to wait and see both books to see whether each merely duplicates the other or whether each is worth having in its own right. One thing is certain though: both projects are long overdue and should meet real needs for many collectors.

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The Herald, Sat., March 3, 1979

Bing Crosby

BING'S WILL WORTH $5.28 mil.

NEW YORK, Fri., AAP. — The late Bing Crosby's estate is worth at least $5.28 million, according to inheritance tax documents.

The documents, filed in San Mateo County Probate Court yesterday, list securities totalling $2.4 million including 45,060 shares of Cox Broadcasting Corporation worth $1.10 million when he died in October 1977.

The files also show about $765,600 in bank accounts, $161,036 in promisory notes and other loans owed to him, and life insurance policies worth about $581,680 were also listed.

Vintage sounds back in circulation

By ANTHONY CLARKE

Nevin Walker opened his record shop in 1961, at the tail-end of the industry's conversion from 78 rpm recordings to LPs and 45s.

But Nevin was determined. Not one of those plastic discs (he says "plastic" with a controlled loathing) would ever be sold in his shop. Now, nearly 20 years later, he stays resolute.

His shop, at 602 High Street, Prahran, is stocked with several thousand 78 rpm recordings and the earlier Edison discs and cylinders, priced from 10 cents to $10.

Here, slowly, you can assemble a collection of opera stars from the turn of the century in their original recordings — Melba, Galli-Curci, Caruso. Or concentrate on the jazz age of Billie Holiday or Fletcher Henderson.

Nevin found his stock originally by scrounging through opportunity shops.

And as he moved about, he heard the same story endlessly: "Oh, we had a stack of those. We threw them on the tip a year ago."

If people want to throw them out, they'd surely sell instead. So in 1964 he advertised. Buying 78s, any quantity, any titles, $1.50 for 50.

The advertisement ran for about three years, with a huge response. Nevin's garage is today still stacked with thousands of unsorted discs as a result of the advertisements: his car looks like staying forever in the driveway.

Nevin opened his shop because he wanted a job he could work at on his own terms. Confined to a wheelchair through illness, he did not want to have to answer to an employer, nor work a routine.

His shop opens on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, and Saturday mornings. In between most of his time is spent sorting and pricing new stock, much of which now reaches him in steady trailer-loads from Adelaide.

Saturday is when you can see what the Vintage Record Shop is all about.

Nevin Walker: 'No unseemly jostling or pushing.'

Nevin arrives at 8.45 am to arrange the shop. Usually a couple of people are already waiting outside.

By 9.45, when the door opens, at least half a dozen collectors are waiting, wanting to get first go at that week's batch of "new" discs. "They're very polite about it," Nevin says. "No unseemly jostling or pushing."

At 10 am or a little after an auction is often held, particularly of jazz rarities or of sought-after Al Bowley records. Al Bowley has auctioned for up to $30 a disc.

If that seems a bit high, reflect on the fact that back in 1906 when Nellie Melba started recording, her records were priced at one guinea each, of which she got 10/6. That was in the days when $3 a week was a good wage.

Some collectors have been coming to the shop week after week since 1961. Others come and go. But the number of customers is steadily increasing, as the records themselves move from being unwanted nuisances in the LP age.

Want Crosby 78's? Nevin's your man!

LETTERS

From Girvan Paterson, Oakleigh.

Did you know that a new movies-in-the-home device called "Disco-vision" has just been released in America? Put out by Philips in conjunction with M.C.A., it is a machine similiar to a turntable and plugs into your T.V. It plays a disc much like a conventional L.P. except that there are no grooves. MCA who own Universal Studios and also all the old Paramount movies, hope to eventually have their entire film library available on discs. I have seen only a partial list of what is available at the moment, but on that list was "Going My Way" along with such modern films as "The Sting", "Jaws" and many more. I have written for a complete list of Video discs currently available. If you or anyone else is interested in this, the address is: David A Lipton, (Vice President Public Relations), MCA Disco-Vision Inc, 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, California 91608 USA. Incidentally, the players cost only about half as much as video cassette players and the video discs from $10 - $15, not much more than an ordinary LP. Almost sounds like science fiction, doesn't it? But that's modern technology, and if it helps preserve Bing's movies, then I'm all for it!

(Thanksfor the information, Girvan. Did you know that there is in fact a rival system to the Philips video discs (which are aluminium and use a lasar stylus) and that has been developed by RCA using plastic discs and an ordinary diamond stylus! Apparently, it's even cheaper to buy than the Philips system. Interesting to see which comes out on top. Interesting too to see whether we'll see the birth of 'pirate' video discs of old movies, TV shows, etc - just as we now have 'pirate' discs of old radio shows. B.M.)

From Ken Twiss, Tacoma, Washington, USA.

It has turned out to be a very big job to put together a meeting that is planned for our "Tribute to Bing in Tacoma". The hard-core Bing fans would like to have more than just one session of entertainment to expereince after travelling a great distance. They have asked me to come up with something to do the night before the meeting for the 10 or 20 people who will be there early.

Plans for the tribute are going well. Al Rinker is anxious to be here. He will talk for a while and then have a question and answer period. Mr Rinker has also offered to lead us in a sing-a-long for the closing of the event.

Altogether, I think that this will be an occasion of importance to any Bing fan. We will have still photos taken, and the entire programme will be put on cassette.

(If you would like details on the Bing Crosby Historical Society, Ken Twiss would be delighted to hear from you. The Society's address is: P.O. Box 8013, Tacoma, Washington, USA. 98408.

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(From a Spokane newspaper dated October, 1978) "Even if Mrs Kathryn Crosby feels 'Bing does not belong in bronze...',, he will be memorialized with this statue slightly larger than life to be placed near the Crosby Library at Gonzaga University. A limited number of replicas 14 inches high are being sold for $1,200 each." (Unfortunately, the picture accompanying the article was not suitable for reproduction here. B.M.)

(From a Seattle newspaper, undated. Not strictly of Crosby interest but certainly of interest to Melbourne residents) Two lovely contraptions, encased carefully in canvas are hidden from sight in a warehouse on one of the waterfront piers. These are the two old streetcars which make their debut next summer - running from Waterfront Park to Pioneer Square, along Burlington Northern tracks. These streetcars are, of course, the idea of City Councilman George Benson. It was Benson who did the laborious spadework to get them here. The streetcars come from Melbourne - double enders that run both ways, with hardwood interiors of Tasmanian mahogony and white ash. Each of the streetcars came for the bargain price of $5,000 each, plus the cost of shipping. (Well, how about that! And you thought that Melbourne's old trams weren't good for anything.)

HELP PLEASE! Adrian Boardman, 36 Doncaster East Road, Mitcham 3132 urgently wants a tape of the Bert Newton show from last September (or October, Adrian's not sure) in which Bert played a number of 'blooper' recordings by Bing and other artists. Can anyone help?

The biggest new face in tee-shirts is the late Bing Crosby. Recently released for sale in Britain, the long-sleeved tee-shirt is pictured modelled by the Old Groaner's grand-daughter, Denese Crosby, 20.

NEW MEMBERS

You may be interested to know that our membership now numbers in excess of 200! One of these days, we'll get a complete membership list out. In the meantime, I thought that it would be nice to say hello to some recent additions through these pages.

James M Dobbie, 129 Molloy Rd, Morningside, Brisb. QLD 4170
Freda Burgess, 163 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield, 3161
Sheila Ann Flanagan, 31 Carolyn Crt, Bundoora 3083
Margaret & Victor Dailey, 83 Carpenter St, Brighton 3186
Hugh & Barbara Lowe, 26 Rich Crescent, W. Heidelberg 3081
Ted and Ada Paradissis, 6 Stroma Ave, Nth Balwyn 3104
Keith & Dorothy Pattison, 20 View St, W.Essendon 3040
Lance Roberts, 3/13 Lambert St, Richmond 3121
Elizabeth & Noel Lambden 79 Claremont Ave, Malvern 3144
Gerard Duggan, 74 Berry St, Clifton Hill 3068
Janet Stutley, 210 Prospect Hill Rd, Surrey Hills 3127
Leonard Schofield, 42 Byng St, Maroubra, NSW 2035
Francis Mottin, 174 Albert Ave, Boronia 3155
Ida Greenwood, 16 Dickasons Rd, Heathmont 3135
Jeff Koops, 36 Longmuir Rd, Watsonia 3087
Brian & Lyn Clarke, 7 Beard St, Eltham 3095
Wilma Baxter, 1/20 Hartwood St, East Kew 3102
Paul Barnes, Box 860, Auckland, New Zealand

Did you see that Leonard Schofield lives in BYNG STREET? He makes a good double with Adrian Fowler who lives in CROSBY DRIVE!!! Anyone you know in LILLIS AVENUE?!

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LETTER
From Eric White, South Oakleigh

I recently picked up a couple of Crosby records in London that I had not come across or heard of before. They were a thing called "Beautiful Memories" which I assume was recorded after "Bing & Basie" but before the lung operation, (Actually Eric, "Beautiful Memories" is technically Bing's second-last LP and comprises mostly material recorded in late 1976. A very good LP, I'm surprised that's it's never been issued here. BM) and another album called "A Christmas Sing With Bing", a radio programme of the mid-50's. (This one has

been issued here, Eric. Once in the late 1950's and again only recently. I think it's still available, in fact. BM) I also tried to track down a copy of "Call Me Lucky". I had been rather hoping that it would be reprinted in the wake of Bing'd death. I had no luck, however.

(Can anyone help Eric with "Call me lucky"? Fortunately, it does turn up occasionally, so Eric's task is not impossible. I don't know of any plans to reissue the book, though. BM)

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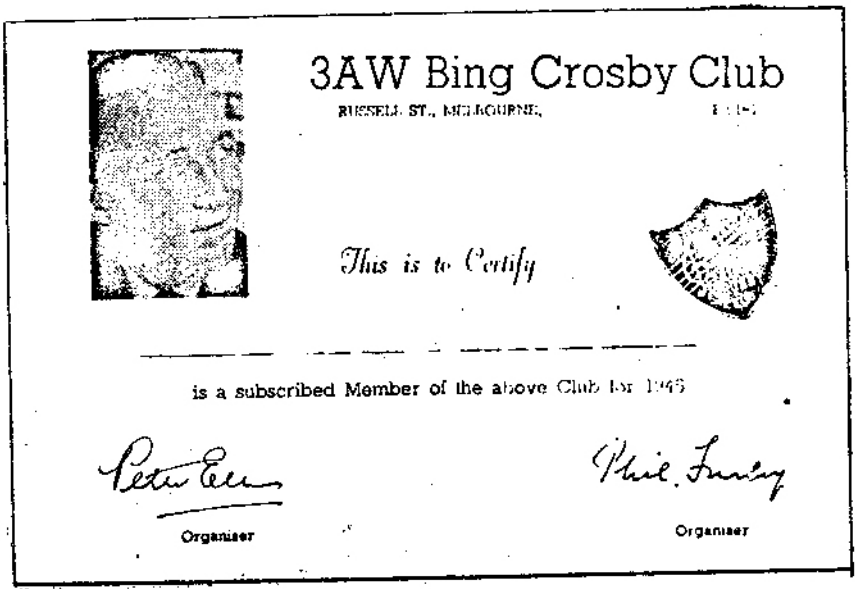
FROM OUT OF THE PAST - A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL MEMBERSHIP CARD OF THE 3AW BING CROSBY CLUB. THANKS TO MEMBER JACK HIGGINSON FOR THIS ONE. WERE YOU A MEMBER OF THIS CLUB? WHY NOT WRITE AND TELL US ABOUT WHAT IT WAS LIKE.



3AW Bing Crosby Club

RUSSELL ST., MELBOURNE,

This is to Certify

is a subscribed Member of the above Club for 1946

Organiser

Organiser

AND FINALLY...

Just a few random notes to round off this edition of the newsletter.

* Did you know that a Kathryn Crosby Fan Club has started up in the United States? No details to hand as yet but we'll keep you posted.

* Are you interested in obtaining Japanese issues of Crosby records? As you probably know, there are several LP's issued in that country that are available nowhere else in the world; also a couple of re-issues of discs that have been out of print for several years such as the Soundtrack LP of "White Christmas" (the 1954 movie) and "How the West Was Won". Well, a friend of mine is considering importing limited quantities of these records for interested parties. As he will be visiting Japan shortly, we need to know quite soon, so please drop me a line if you are interested. Cost, happily, will be a bit less than if you imported the records yourself.

* Our good friend and internationally-known Crosby collector, Keith Hyde, isn't too well these days. Our thoughts are with you Keith. Take care of yourself.

* Another addition to the sick list is well-known U.K. collector and Editor of "Bing" magazine, Reg Bristo. We recently sent Reg a 'get-well' card on your behalf.

* Stamp collectors amongst our members will be interested to hear that a special aerogramme was recently issued in Scotland featuring colour pictures of Bing and Bob Hope. I believe that the aerogramme was issued to tie in with a major golfing tournament there.

* Addresses of overseas Crosby societies are:
The International Crosby Circle, c/- Reg Bristo, 7 Green-meadow Close, Cwmbran, Gwent, NP4 3NR, U.K.
Bing Pictorial, c/- Frank Murphy, 32 Ferndale Ave, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, NE 28, 7NE U.K.
Club Crosby, c/- Pat Sullivan, 1301 Sheridan Ave, Apt 96, Chico, California 95926, U.S.A.
The Bing Crosby Historical Society, c/- Ken Twiss, PO Box 8013, Tacoma, Washington 98408, U.S.A.

Guess that's it for now. Best wishes, Bob Mahlen